(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to check the cultivation and distribution of kesri dal in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The sale of Kesri dal in any form has been prohibited under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules 1955. All the States excepting Madhya Pradesh Bihar and West Bengal have issued Notifications banning its sale. The following steps have been taken to check the sale and cultivation of Kesri dal in any form :—

(1) The sale of Kesri dal and its products of mixture of Kesri dal with other dals or for use as an ingredient for preparation of any article of food is prohibited under the P.F.A. Rules 1955 (Rule 44 A).

(2) State Governments have been requested to ban the sale of Kesri dal. All States excepting the States of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal have banned its sale.

(3) The State Governments have been advised to educate the consumers on the harmful effects of Kesri dal for removing the neurotoxin before consumption by the methods available.

(4) The State Governments have been advised to cultivate low neurotoxin varieties of Kesri dal in the Kesri growing belts.

(5) Cultivation of Kesri dal is banned in Uttar Pradesh . The States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal have taken steps to replace its cultivation with other suitable pulse or oilseed crops.

Ship breaking yards at Alang, Gujarat

1518 : SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK :

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ship breaking yard at Alang near Bhavnagar in the industrially backward region of Saurashtra has been passing through a severe crisis ;

(b) if so, what are the details of supply of ships ; and

(c) the manner in which Government proposes to over-come the problems faced by the ship breaking yard at Alang ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C PANT) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The ship breaking yard at Alang is not facing any crisis Adequate vessels are being provided for ship breaking to the registered units at Alang. The delivery of ships during the past 2 years has been as follows :—

	1984-85	1985-86
(1) No of vessels delivered	40	72
(2) Tonnage	208,575LDT	415,250LDT

Pig-Iron shortage faced by foundry units in Gujarat

1519. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India are aware of the fact that foundry units in Gujarat have been facing acute shortage of pig-iron, their basic raw material since April, 1985;